

WILD RUMORS AFLOAT

London Public Stirred Up by Many Vague Reports.

BULLER THOUGHT TO BE FIGHTING

Lord Roberts, However, Says the Situation is Unchanged.

MR. HAY REACHES PRETORIA

LONDON, February 6.—This morning, fearing, doubting that remains at the mercy of every wild rumor. The impression that Gen. Buller's forces are fighting will not die out, in spite of the continuous asseverations of the war office that it has no news to confirm that belief.

From Cape Town, under today's date, comes the statement that up to this morning nothing has been heard there regarding Gen. Buller's recrossing the Tugela river, while Field Marshal Lord Roberts, in a dispatch dated Monday, February 5, reports no change in the situation. In view of the latter's dispatches, it seems hard to credit the circumstantial reports of the engagement of Gen. Buller's troops. The common-sense view almost inclines toward the decision that these are due to the wish being the father of the thought.

Supposition upon such a basis is utterly futile. The complete silence from the front and at home may be significant, as the wisest view, but it more probably represents that period of preparation which precedes an important movement.

THE CONDITIONS ELSEWHERE.

In other parts of the Tugela conditions of information are scarcely more satisfactory. There is an inconclusive vagueness regarding Gen. French's reported intention to proceed to Natal's Point with an overwhelming force of infantry. While the news of sharp fighting in the neighborhood of Colesberg can be fairly expected within a few days, it is not likely that it will assume greater proportions than reconnaissance and skirmishes for the purpose of holding the advanced position of the forthcoming main advance by way of Bloemfontein. Gen. French is strategically prohibited from running any serious risk.

Lord Roberts' reply to President Kruger and Steyn creates an excellent impression here.

STEYN AND KRUGER PROTEST.

A dispatch dated Cape Town, February 5, gives the following, which is referred to in the preceding dispatch: Presidents Steyn and Kruger have communicated with Field Marshal Lord Roberts protesting against the destruction of farm houses and the devastation of property. Lord Roberts in reply declared that he was not in a position to guarantee that wanton destruction of property was contrary to British practices.

Following is the text of the protest, which is dated Bloemfontein, February 2:

"We learn from many sides that the British troops, contrary to the recognized practice of war, are destroying property by burning or dynamiting farm houses and devastating farms and the goods therein, by means of which unprotected women and children are often deprived of food and shelter."

"This happens not only in places where the British are encouraged by British officers, but even in Cape Colony, where the British are not encouraged by British officers."

"I beg to acknowledge the honor of your telegram charging the British troops with the destruction of property, contrary to the recognized usages of war, and with brigandage and devastation. These charges are made in vague and general terms. No specific case is mentioned. No evidence is given. I have seen such charges made before me in the press, but in no case have I seen any under my notice have been substantiated."

"The most stringent instructions have been issued to the British troops to respect private property so far as is compatible with the conduct of military operations. All wanton destruction and injury to peaceful inhabitants are prohibited by British practices and traditions, and will, if necessary, be rigorously repressed by me."

"Great Britain has no quarrel with the Boers, and she has no intention of being perpetuated by native subjects of the queen the act was contrary to the instructions of the British officer nearest the spot."

AFRICA FROM PRETORIA.

CAPE TOWN, February 6.—The Argus announced that ninety guns had been dispatched from Pretoria to the front, and that the Pretoria forts have been practically denuded of artillery.

MR. HAY REACHES PRETORIA.

PRETORIA, Monday, February 5.—Admiral Sir H. A. Meyer, the new United States consul here, was received by the Transvaal government today and presented his credentials. He created an excellent impression.

STATUS OF COLONIAL TROOPS.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES QUESTION OF PAY FOR SOLDIERS.

OTTAWA, Ont., February 6.—The Transvaal war was discussed in the house of commons last night. The position of the government was announced by F. J. Gould, who moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne, regarding the pay of the contingents, which is the point of contention between the two political parties. The government proposes to pay all the expense of the Canadian soldiers to Cape Town, there to be merged into the battalions of the empire and paid for by Great Britain.

In addition to the pay given by Great Britain, Canada will make up to what would be paid if the Canadian soldiers had been serving at home. This extra amount will be kept in a fund for the return of the men or given out for their families.

Sir Charles Tupper insisted on paying the full salary to Great Britain while the Canadians were in the field.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier, spoke of the justice of the war and supported the view taken by the government for forwarding assistance. He did not claim for the sending of the contingents offered no precedent and the government would be expected to follow in future.

EDGEWOOD NOT SOLD.

THE CONTRACT BY WHICH HERBERT NOBLE, as trustee, agreed to sell the Edgewood property, the home of the late Salmon P. Chase, to Mrs. Wm. Lynday Ellsworth has been canceled. Capt. Ellsworth has filed with the recorder of deeds a quit claim of all his interest under the agreement or otherwise.

Aid for Mr. and Mrs. Kent.

The following additional subscriptions have been received at The Star office for the benefit of N. P. Kent and wife of 433 G street northwest:

Heretofore acknowledged..... \$5.00

Cash..... 2.00

Mr. J. A. C. 2.00

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THE CLANS WILL CLASH

Democratic Central Committee Will Meet Tonight.

THE CHARACTERISTIC WARMTH OF SUCH OCCASIONS EXPECTED TO PREVAIL—PROPOSED DIVISION OF TWO DISTRICTS.

There promises to be a hot time at Myers Hotel tonight, as the probabilities are that one who happens to be on Pennsylvania avenue between 4th and 8th streets during the ante-midnight hours will be aware of it. The occasion of the anticipated warmth will be a meeting of the democratic central committee of the District of Columbia, a body which has been more or less surcharged with differences ever since its origin, but which has been fractured hopelessly ever since last year, when it divided into even sides on the subject of recommending a successor to the late Lawrence Gardner on the national democratic committee. The local body consists of twenty-two members, each representing one of the section districts in the District of Columbia, and the subject of the meeting is the division of the district into two sections, the one side being known as the Norris and the other as the Holmead party.

PROPOSED DIVISION.

The meeting tonight will be, it is understood, devoted largely to an effort to change the order of things, so far as the constitution of the local democracy is concerned, by increasing the number of districts from twenty-two to twenty-four. To accomplish this it is proposed to split districts Nos. 1 and 2 in half. The districts embrace, respectively, the territory across the Anacostia river, that surrounding Brightwood, District No. 1 is represented on the committee by Mr. Victor R. Byer of Congress Heights and District No. 2, by Dr. Henry Darling of Brightwood. The other delegates and the districts they represent are as follows:

Wm. L. Wells, eighth; George Killean, nineteenth; E. Lynch, twenty; John A. C. 2.00

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AGAINST POLYGAMY

Discussing a Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

BEFORE HOUSE OF JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Hearing Given to Prominent Persons Interested in Reform.

STATE AND HOME MENACED

The House committee on judiciary gave a hearing today upon the subject of bills pending before the committee to submit to the states a proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy, and giving the federal government jurisdiction over matters relating to polygamy. The number of eminent clergymen of this city, well-known people engaged in reform work and prominent clergymen and reformers from other cities were present. Brief addresses were made by several people and the committee gave attention to all that was said. Dr. John Eaton introduced the speakers to the committee.

Bishop Satterlee of the diocese of Washington was the first to address the committee. He said he desired to say only a few words upon the subject.

"It seems to me," said Bishop Satterlee, "that the life of the nation is at stake in this question. The family is the word of the nation, and the question affects family life everywhere. This movement may be carried forward, I am here to express my earnest conviction that the state and home are menaced."

Rev. Dr. McKim of Epiphany Church followed Bishop Satterlee. He said that the subject under consideration was vital to the future of the nation. The study of the Roberts case had been a revelation to the people of this country. The evil which was being done by the Mormons was being revealed by the wide publicity given to the Roberts case. Dr. McKim urged the committee to take prompt action.

Dr. A. D. Leonard of New York was the next speaker. He said that the subject was of the greatest importance to the nation. He said that the number of missionaries going through the United States was being increased by the Mormons. He said that the preservation of the fundamental principle of the proposed constitutional amendment was of the greatest importance.

Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts of the reform bureau of this city advocated the amendment. He said that the subject was of the greatest importance to the nation. He said that the number of missionaries going through the United States was being increased by the Mormons. He said that the preservation of the fundamental principle of the proposed constitutional amendment was of the greatest importance.

Dr. John Dixon of New York, representing the Presbyterian home mission board, said that the subject was of the greatest importance to the nation. He said that the number of missionaries going through the United States was being increased by the Mormons. He said that the preservation of the fundamental principle of the proposed constitutional amendment was of the greatest importance.

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NEW SECTION TO CURRENCY BILL REPORTED TO THE SENATE.

DEFER TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY MESSRS. PETTUS, CHANDLER AND JONES.

THE PHILIPPINES DISCUSSED

In the Senate today Mr. Aldrich, chairman of the finance committee, offered an amendment to the pending financial bill providing that nothing in the bill shall interfere with efforts to secure international bimetalism with the concurrence of the leading nations of the world.

Mr. Pettus (Ala.) offered an amendment to the financial bill providing that the bill shall not be construed to affect the present monetary quantity of silver dollars coined by the United States.

To the same bill Mr. Chandler proposed an amendment providing that the gold dollar of 23.8 grains and the silver dollar of 412.4 grains shall be the unit of value and that all forms of money issued or coined by the United States shall be maintained at that parity of value; and that the United States notes and treasury notes when presented at the treasury for redemption shall be redeemed in gold or silver coin of such standard.

Mr. Jones of Arkansas introduced an amendment directing the Secretary of the Treasury to cause to be deposited in the emergency fund amounting to \$20,000,000 of United States treasury notes, which may be issued to any citizen of the United States for the purpose of securing a loan for United States bonds, the bonds to be held for not to exceed a year, and the holder to pay 6 per cent interest.

A joint resolution authorizing the President to appoint one woman commissioner to represent the United States and the National Association of Women at the Universal American Revolution at the unveiling of the statue of Lafayette at the exposition in Paris.

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